

AMENDMENT A

Title: "Separating Foreign Objects from a Mass of Coins"

Application Serial No: 10/670,111

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16 are amended and claims 17 and 18 are added herein. Upon entry of this amendment claims 1-18 will be pending. Applicants note with appreciation the allowability of claims 1-16 noted in the Office Action. All amendments to the claims presented herein are presented to improve the form of the claims and not for reasons related to patentability. Further, the amendments presented herein do not affect the allowability of claims 1-16 as noted in the Office Action.

The Claims

Claim 16 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections noted in the Office Action. Furthermore, the format of claims 1, 6, 11, 12 and 14-16 reflected in the listing of claims herein includes a line indentation separating each element or step of the claim as requested in the Office Action. Because the wording of claim 15 has not been amended, this claim is listed with the "original" status indicator in the listing of claims.

New claim 17 generally corresponds in scope with claim 1 but presents the subject matter of the claim in a different form. New claim 18 generally corresponds in scope with claim 11 but presents the subject matter of the claim in a different form. Accordingly, claims 17 and 18 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Information Disclosure Statement

An additional Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment for consideration by the Examiner.

Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants agree with the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter, but have noticed an error in the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter at pages 3-4 of the Office Action. In contrast to what seems to be suggested by the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, claims 1, 11, 16, and the other claims of the

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present application, do not recite "a configuration such that articles are passed through perforations in said lower tray and debris travels along said lower tray to a downstream end." Nonetheless, the claims define a combination and arrangement of trays, perforations, apertures, inlets and outlets that clearly distinguish the pending claims over all prior art.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is solicited. If for some reason the Examiner deems that the present application is not in condition for immediate allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 404-879-2453, in an effort to expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/13/06

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